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MINEHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1972

To the Minehead Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1972 on the health of the Minehead Urban District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area: 2,739 acres
Population: 8,180 (Registrar General's mid-year Estimate)
Rateable Value: £555,177
Sum represented by 1p rate: £5,280

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births: Legitimate	28	32	60
Illegitimate	6	4	10
Still Births: Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths from all causes	77	97	174
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	-	-	-

		Adjusted rate
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population:	8.6	12.1
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:	21.3	10.0

England and Wales

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population: .. 49,028,900

	Number	Rate
Live Births	725,405	14.8 per 1,000 population
Still Births	8,794	12.0 per 1,000 total births
Deaths	591,907	12.1 per 1,000 population
Infant Mortality: (deaths under 1 year of age)	12,494	17.0 per 1,000 live births

DEATHS

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	3	4	7
Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus		1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	4		4
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	7	11
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1

/Hypertensive Disease ...

	Male	Female	Total
Hypertensive Disease	-	3	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	25	17	42
Other forms of Heart Disease	3	12	15
Cerebrovascular Disease	10	17	27
Other diseases of Circulatory System ..	5	7	12
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	5	11	16
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	-	3
Other diseases of Respiratory System ..	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2		2
Other diseases of Genito-Urinary System ..	1	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ..	-	2	2
All other external causes	-	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	77	97	174

Climatic Conditions

Rainfall

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Annual	958mm	863mm	817mm	887mm
Average Yearly	846mm	838mm	848mm	855mm
From 1st June to 30th September ..	275mm	300mm	238mm	156mm
Days during period less than 0.3mm	80	75	79	82
Days during period between 0.3mm and 1.0mm	15	10	9	10
Days during period more than 1.0mm	27	38	34	30

Temperatures

	1969	1970	1971	1972	
Highest Air	26.7°C	29.4°C	24°C	24°C	(29th July)
Lowest Air	-4.4°C	-4.4°C	-4°C	-9.5°C	(31st Jan.)
Lowest Air	-6.6°C	0°C	0°C	1°C	(25th Nov.)
Lowest Air during period 1st June - 30th September	3.8°C	5.5°C	7°C	5°C	(6th June)

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases

	Total
Measles	-
Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Erysipelas	-
Enteric Fever	-
Dysentery	-
Food Poisoning	-
Infective Jaundice	3
Acute Meningitis	-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1

/There ...

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. One 14 month old infant, in a self-catering chalet at the Holiday Camp, developed symptoms of gastro-enteritis in August. He was admitted to hospital but no specific food poisoning organism was identified.

It was necessary to visit several persons who returned to Minehead without valid smallpox vaccination certificates having visited countries overseas where smallpox is prevalent. To protect the local population, such cases need to be kept under surveillance until it is certain that they will not develop the disease.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwives

These services are provided by the Somerset County Council.

The Home Help Service

This is now the responsibility of the County Social Services Department.

Hospitals

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is managed by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee. The Hospital provides medical, surgical and casualty treatment and out-patient clinics. A Somerset County Family Planning Clinic is held at the Hospital.

Health and Dental Clinic

These are provided by the Somerset County Council at 54 Summerland Avenue, Minehead.

Nursing Homes

There are two nursing homes in the district which are registered for 15 patients and 14 patients respectively.

Ambulance Facilities

This service is provided by the Somerset County Council with ambulances stationed at Minehead. The new Ambulance Station at the former T.A. Centre came into operation in January 1972.

Old Persons Homes

Wyndham House, Martlet Road, which has 33 beds, is maintained by the Somerset County Council's Social Services Department. There are seven private residential homes for the aged with 95 beds. Fifty-one old persons dwellings with Warden accommodation are provided by the Council with grant aid from the Somerset County Council.

/HYGIENE ...

HYGIENE AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

General

The number of inspections and visits made to various premises in the district was 1,290 and are detailed below:-

Abattoir	452
Food premises	87
Rodent control	41
Housing	55
Water Supplies	104
Public Health	242
Infectious Disease	1
Offices, Shops, etc.	288

Housing

The total number of dwellings in the district is 3,275. During the year 88 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 216.

There was no case of overcrowding reported during the year.

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1972						
By Local Authority 292		By Private Enterprise 667				
No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.71 (a)		Gained from conversions and erected during 1972 (b)	Total (a) + (b)	Less dwellings demolished, closed, etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in district as at 31.12.72	
					L.A.	P.E.
L.A.	370	20	390	-	390	-
P.E.	2,824	68	2,892	7	-	2,885
TOTAL	3,194	88	3,282	7	3,275	

/Improvement Grant ...

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during the year.

	Received		Approved	
	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
Improvement Grants	13	27	11	20
Standard Grants	16	17	13	14
Special Grants	-	-	-	-

Water Supplies

The supply of water to the town is undertaken by the West Somerset Water Board. There are six sources of supply with Nutscale supplying the bulk of the water to the town and the other sources are from Broadwood, Longwood, Periton, Middlecombe and Moor Brake. All the sources, except Moor Brake which is from a borehole, are collected from land springs. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Results of Samples taken for analysis

Raw water				Treated water			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory	Satis-factory	Unsatis-factory
28	13	6	-	46	1	-	-

I am pleased to report that there was only one unsatisfactory sample of treated water during the year.

Sewerage

The sewerage system operated satisfactorily during the year. There was one complaint of beach pollution during the winter when the comminutor was undergoing maintenance. The only satisfactory way of overcoming these occasional complaints is to construct a new long sea outfall carrying the sewage out into deep water.

Refuse Disposal

The refuse tip at Rodhuish was closed on 31st March and the quarry at Treborough used for tipping from 1st April. This arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

/Rodent Control ...

Rodent Control

One part-time operator is employed to carry out the treatment of premises. Dwellinghouses are not charged for this service but the whole cost of treating business premises is recovered. During the year 185 properties were found to be infested with rats.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

Premises	Number Registered	Number of persons Employed
Offices	43	411
Retail Shops	106	657
Wholesale Departments	2	58
Catering Establishments	18	984
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-
TOTAL	169	2,110

Factories

Particulars of premises registered under the Factories Act, 1961 and the inspections made are as follows:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	6	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	52	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	52	-	-

/2. ...

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowing ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature ..	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation ..	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

3. Outwork:-

	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel:						
Making etc.	24	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper Bags	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	25	-	-	-	-	-

Swimming Pools

There are three public swimming pools in Minehead. The Lido, Warren Road is privately owned, and is filled with sea water; two are in the Holiday Camp and are filled with fresh water from the Camp supply. The treatment adopted to maintain their purity is re-circulation, filtration and automatic chlorination.

/Samples ...

Samples are taken frequently to ensure that the degree of chlorination is maintained and there is no trace of bacterial infection. Results of the tests indicated that in all the pools a safe bathing water was maintained.

Holiday Camp

Once again, the Camp catered for approximately 140,000 holidaymakers during the summer season. The Company continued to provide a hygiene adviser who is a retired public health inspector.

In 1972, for the first time, the Camp was opened at Easter so that several hundred children could attend for some special "educational" weeks. Many of the children came from unsatisfactory city areas, and they obviously enjoyed their stay in Minehead. Of course, the extension of the activity at the Camp imposes a further burden on your Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The general standard of cleanliness of all food premises in the t wn was satisfactory and only minor informal action needed to be taken in a few cases.

The number of premises in the district are as follows:-

Abattoir	1	Fried Fish Shops	3
Bakehouses	1	Fruiterers and Greengrocers ..	10
Baker's Shops	3	Grocers and Confectioners	32
Butchers	6	Holiday Camp	1
Cafes	16	Hostels	1
Chemists	4	Hotels with restaurants	9
Clubs, etc	8	Hotels, Residential	35
Canteens	2	Licensed Premises	9
Church Halls	6	Pie Factory..	1
Dairies	1	Restaurants..	9
Dairy Shops	2	School Kitchens	4
Fishmongers	2	Snack Bars	3

Milk

Number of Milk Samples taken in Minehead Urban District during year

Pasteurised	64
Ultra-Heat Treated	5
Untreated	2
	71

The 2 untreated samples which were collected from Mr. F. G. Baker within the Urban District were negative to the test for brucella. He is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Rural District of Williton at Greenaleigh Farm, Minehead.

Ice Cream

One property is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 59 premises for the sale of ice cream.

/Carcases inspected and condemned:- ...

Carcases inspected and condemned:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	302	-	3	2,017	873	-
Number inspected	302	-	3	2,017	873	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	8	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	4.6%	-	-	0.17%	1.5%	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.17%	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	All animals
(a) Tuberculosis	10
(b) Cysticercosis	-
(c) Other	333
Total (in lbs.) condemned	343

/Food condemned ...

Food Condemned

Meat	353 lbs.
Canned Meat and meat products	38 tins.
Bacon	686 lbs.
Vegetables	156 tins.
Fruit	269 tins.
Frozen Foods (Various)	Value £61.
Fish	61 lbs. and 203 tins.
Fruit Juice	258 tins.
Other foods	214 packets.

Once again, in 1972, we were fortunate that there were no substantial health problems in the Urban District. Preparations for the reform of Local Government gained momentum. It is to be hoped that the new West Somerset District Council will appreciate the particular health problems of Minehead.

I should like to thank your Public Health Inspector, Mr. Symes, and Mr. Burgess, your Clerk, for their continued, constant co-operation.

J. Beasley

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Taunton.

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